



Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

August 5, 1999

CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

BROWNBACK VOTES FOR AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON -- Following Senate passage of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill last night, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback made the following comments.

“This agriculture appropriations bill contains over \$60.7 billion for funding in critical areas such as Ag credit programs for farmers, rural development, conservation programs, food safety initiatives, Ag research, foreign food aid initiatives, food stamps and child nutrition,” Brownback said.

“Today, the Senate passed an amendment to the agriculture appropriations bill that will assist many family farmers in Kansas and around the nation. Specifically, this amendment provides for an additional \$400 million in crop insurance. This is an important step in helping to increase stability in agriculture.

“Congress also included \$5.54 billion in additional AMTA payments. This is a 100% increase in a producer’s 1999 payments. AMTA works within 10 days - getting the funds quickly and efficiently. These AMTA payments have been a proven method of getting much needed funds to farmers in a rapid manner and I applaud the Senate’s recognition of this fine program.

“We have also provided \$475 million in direct payments to soybean and minor oilseed producers and \$325 million and assistance to livestock and dairy producers.

“We also address Loan Deficiency Payments or LDPs in this bill. We increase the payment limit from \$75,000 to \$100,000. This increase in the upper limit will allow us to reach more of the most hard-hit family farms.

“Additionally, we must open up overseas markets to increase the agriculture industry’s ability to compete effectively in the world. We have experienced tremendous declines in our agricultural exports since 1996. Since that time, we have also experienced lower commodity prices.

“This Administration and Congress have failed to aggressively work to open up markets for our producers, and government policies continue to restrict our producers ability to sell. We need to enact legislation that will help to turn around the current agriculture crisis. We can do this by approving fast track, breaking down trade barriers and giving our agriculture producers tax relief,” Brownback said.